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JAPANESE DENIALS ON CIA TIES

TOKYO JIJI IN ENGLISH 2230Z 28 MAR 67 W

(TEXT) TOKYO--CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY KENJI FUKUNAGA TUESDAY FLATLY DENIED THE CABINET RESEARCH OFFICE HAD ENGAGED IN JOINT OPERATIONS WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES. HE ALSO TERMED IT UNTHINKABLE THAT PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS, TO WHICH THE OFFICE HAD ENTRUSTED RESEARCH WORK, HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH CIA. THE CABINET SPOKESMAN MADE THE DENIAL IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS BY SOCIALIST KOZO INOMATA AT A MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BUDGET COMMITTEE.

IN RESPONSE TO THE VETERAN SOCIALIST'S QUESTION, FOREIGN MINISTER TAKEO MIKI ALSO STATED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF A DIRECT EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE AND CIA. HE NOTED CIA HAD NO OFFICE IN JAPAN. HE DID ADMIT, HOWEVER, THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD RECEIVED CIA'S INFORMATION THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HERE ON OCCASION. HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER SENSUKE FUJIEDA ALSO TOLD THE SOCIALIST THAT THE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

WHEN INOMATA ASKED IF THE GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT A GOOD MANY CIA AGENTS WERE STATEIONED HER IN THE GUISE OF AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT CIA, BEING A BRANCH OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WAS IN CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF. BUT, HE STRESSED, HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF RELATIONS, IF ANY, BETWEEN CIA AND THE EMBASSY.

THE SOCIALIST, NOTING RUMORS THAT CIA'S CENTRAL BASE OF OPERATIONS HAS BEEN MOVED TO TOKYO, ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE "COUNTERMEASURES." THE FOREIGN MINISTER OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO EVIDENCE TO PROVE WHETHER THE RUMORS WERE TRUE. BUT, HE SAID, SHOULD CIA ENGAGE IN ANY UNLAWFUL, IMPROPER ACTIVITIES IN THIS COUNTRY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE ACTION IN CONSONANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE.

29 MAR 0224Z ACH/JB